



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway, Board Chairman

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For Immediate Release

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD ADOPTS 2009 COUNTY BUDGET

Board resists many of County Executive's fee increases and outsourcing proposals

Milwaukee, WI - The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2009 County Budget at its Annual Meeting this evening, approving a majority of the amendments passed by the Finance and Audit Committee.

"I'm very pleased with what we were able to accomplish, especially when you compare it to the budget that was originally presented to the Board," Chairman Lee Holloway said. "It's a difficult balance, but we did a great job in keeping our costs down while resisting many of the fee increases and outsourcing the County Executive had proposed. We have crafted a budget that is progressive."

Total expenditures for 2009 are \$1,394,900,657. Under the adopted budget, the 2009 tax levy would be \$257,687,150, an increase of 3.12% over the 2008 levy of \$249,889,950. Under this scenario, the owner of a \$150,000 home in the City of Milwaukee would see the County portion of their annual property tax bill rise by approximately \$12.17, when factoring in the City's average assessment increase of 2.54%.

The tax levy increase of 3.12%, as adopted by the Board, is far below the state tax levy increase limit of 13.03%. In comparison, the City of Milwaukee and MPS recently approved tax levy increases of 4.8% and 14.6% respectively.

Highlights of the 2009 Milwaukee County Budget, as adopted by the County Board:

- **Deny the outsourcing of various functions** within the following departments and divisions:
 - Fleet Management (18-1 vote)
 - All Skilled Trades positions (14-5 vote)
 - Behavioral Health Division (19-0 on RN positions, 17-2 on Targeted Case Management functions, 15-4 on Accounts Receivable, Billing and Admissions services and 10-8-1 vote on Housekeeping positions)
- **Restore numerous positions that were slated to be unfunded or abolished** in the following departments:
 - Combined Court Related Operations (12-7 vote)
 - Child Support Enforcement (19-0 and 17-2 votes)
 - Register of Deeds (15-4 vote)
- **Parks:** 11-8 to restore 48 full-time Parks Maintenance Workers and several other parks positions, including two community center manager and horticulturalist positions, reduce the increase in golf course fees, reduce the increase in slip fees at McKinley Marina, remove increases in swimming pool admission fees
- 12-7 to deny the installation of **parking meters** along Lincoln Memorial Drive

- **Airport:** 16-3 to remove \$500,000 related to examination of a potential lease of General Mitchell International Airport
- **House of Correction:** 13-6 to transfer control of the House of Correction to the Sheriff
- 13-6 to restore funding for the Community Justice Resource Center
- 19-0 to transition General Assistance Medical Program clients to BadgerCare Plus – Childless Adults as of January 1, 2009.
- **Economic Support Division:** 10-9 to deny the outsourcing of the Call Center and Customer Service functions
- **Behavioral Health Division/Capital Improvements:** 10-9 to add a new capital improvement project for the construction of a new Behavioral Health Division facility.
- **Milwaukee County Transit System:** 15-4 to maintain current levels for cash fare and half fare transit tickets and avoid increases proposed by the County Executive, 19-0 to implement a monthly transit pass option, available for purchase at \$60, 12-7 to restore transit Route 11 from 60th/Vliet to downtown, 13-6 to continue funding for the operation of Route 17 in the Menomonee Valley (partially offset by funding from Federal Job Access and Reverse Commute grants, Potawatomi Casino, Wisconsin DOT and BID #26), 13-6 to provide \$650,000 for installation of bicycle racks for buses (largely offset by a Federal Transit Administration grant).
- 15-4 to provide \$150,000 for a Summer Youth Employment Program, contingent on Milwaukee Public Schools providing at least \$150,000 in matching funds.
- 19-0 to provide \$100,000 in funding for the Safe Alternatives for Youth program, offset by revenue from Potawatomi.
- 15-4 to provide \$1,000,000 for the Special Needs Housing Program, financed with a loan from the State Trust Fund Loan Program.
- 13-6 to approve a special tax levy for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Supervisors who voted in favor of adopting the 2009 County Tax Levy (12-7):

Gerry Broderick, Toni M. Clark, Elizabeth Coggs, Marina Dimitrijevic, Lee Holloway, Willie Johnson, Jr., Chris Larson, Theodore Lipscomb, Michael Mayo, Sr., Patricia Jursik, Johnny L. Thomas, Peggy West

Supervisors who voted against:

Mark Borkowski, Paul Cesarz, Lynne De Bruin, Joseph Rice, Joe Sanfelippo, Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, John F. Weishan, Jr.

Supervisors who voted in favor of adopting the 2009 County Budget (13-6):

Gerry Broderick, Toni M. Clark, Elizabeth Coggs, Marina Dimitrijevic, Lee Holloway, Willie Johnson, Jr., Chris Larson, Theodore Lipscomb, Michael Mayo, Sr., Patricia Jursik, Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, Johnny L. Thomas, Peggy West

Supervisors who voted against:

Mark Borkowski, Paul Cesarz, Lynne De Bruin, Joseph Rice, Joe Sanfelippo, John F. Weishan, Jr.

The County Board will consider any vetoes from the County Executive, as it relates to the 2009 Budget, Wednesday, November 19th at 1:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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